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McGrath takes on new position of AFRL Legal Advisor

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Taking on a newly created position calls for not only relative experience, but a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm - and recently appointed Air Force Research Laboratory Legal Advisor Mike McGrath has the right combination.

For the past few months the new face around the AFRL law office is McGrath who assumed the Legal Adviser position in March. In this new job, he will provide legal instruction to AFRL's Commander Brig. Gen. Nielsen and the rest of the AFRL staff. McGrath's main duty will review incoming legal requests. Then he will either take on the challenge, or depending upon its specialty, reroute it to other legal personnel. He explains that some of the existing employee-counsel relationships will continue intact without a lot of involvement from his angle. Either way, he will monitor the process to assure that an answer is received in a timely fashion. His goal is to serve as a sort of funnel for clearing the way to the most precise answer with the quickest turn around possible.

A graduate of the Air Force Academy, he spent his military career, providing legal support and teaching law and future Air Force leaders. A Troy, N.Y. native, he was transferred to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1990. Prior to his new appointment, he was a member of the Air Force Contract Trial Team, litigating Air Force contract disputes before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

McGrath says he is impressed not only by the innovative efforts taking place at AFRL, but the overall enthusiasm felt by employees throughout the lab.

"Everyone is genuinely excited about what they are doing and this atmosphere of excitement is contagious," he says.



Mike McGrath

From personnel issues to complex cases, McGrath is looking forward to the diversity of problems he will encounter within the research and development arena. "I see this as a challenging, evolving process. Flexibility is a key thing," he said of the other potential job duties.

McGrath resides in Beavercreek and spends his free time keeping in shape by running. Married for 27 years with four children, he is an active member of St. Luke's Parish. @